

## Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 131506Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6083

S E C R E T CAIRO 10913

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MILI, EG, US  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE USE BY US NAVY OF AL-GABBARI SHIPYARD IN  
ALEXANDRIA

REF: CAIRO 3788

1. ALTHOUGH WE STILL AWAIT A DEFINITIVE USG  
POLICY DECISION AS TO WHETHER USN MIGHT USE AL-GABBARI  
SHIPYARD IN ALEXANDRIA, A NEW ELEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE  
CREPT INTO THE PICTURE UNBEKNOWST TO US. EGYPTIAN  
CNO VICE ADMIRAL ZIKRY TOLD MY ALUSNA YESTERDAY THAT, DURING  
HIS MEETING WITH CNO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY IN NEWPORT, THE  
LATTER HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT. ZIKRY CLAIMED HE  
REPLIED THAT US NAVY USE OF AL-GABBARI MIGHT BE  
POSSIBLE. IT SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, HAPPEN RIGHT  
AWAY, SINCE SOVIETS WERE EXPELLED ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO.  
ZIKRY INDICATED THAT HE PLANS TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER,  
BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAS YET RAISED IT  
WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN/MINWAR GAMASY OR ANYONE ELSE. I  
SAW GAMSAY TWO WEEKS AGO. HE TOLD ME ZIKRY AND JUST  
REPORTED TO HIM ON HIS VISIT TO THE US AND HIS TALK  
WITH ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY, BUT GAVE ABSOLUTELY NO  
INDICATION THAT USN USE OF AL-GABBARI SHIPYARD HAD  
COME UP. KNOWING THE WAY THINGS WORK IN EGYPT, I  
WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE MATTER MOVED QUICKLY.

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2. FROM EVERYTHING I HEAR, THE USN WOULD GREATLY LIKE TO USE THE AL-GABBARI SHIPYARD. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY'S INITIATIVE LEAVES US WITH TWO OPTIONS:

(A) WE COULD TRY TO ACCELERATE A POLICY DECISION ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL AS TO WHETHER WE WANT FORMALLY TO QUERY GOE, AT THE FAHMY/GAMASY LEVEL, ON THE USE OF THE SHIPYARD;

(B) WE COULD SIMPLY LET THE MATTER PERCOLATE THROUGH GOE AS A RESULT OF WHATEVER ACTION ZIKRY MAY IN DUE COURSE INITIATE. IF GOE IS INTERESTED, IT WOULD PRESUMABLY AT SOME POINT CONTACT US OFFICIALLY ON THE SUBJECT. I DO NOT REGARD THE AL-GABBARI YARDMASTER'S APPROACH OF A YEAR AND A HALF AGO AS A POLITICALLY APPROVED QUERY.

3. OF THE TWO OPTIONS, I THINK THE FIRST WOULD BE PREFERABLE. WE OUGHT TO GET THIS MATTER OUT OF THE WAY ONCE AND FOR ALL. HOWEVER, I COULD LIVE WITH THE SECOND.

4. SINCE WE WERE TOLD THIS IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, I BELIEVE THAT THE PERTINENT HOLLOWAY/ZIKRY TALK SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE USN AT THIS TIME.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE SOME INDICATION FROM DEPT WHERE THIS MATTER STANDS.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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